

**Council on Greenways & Trails
Lewes Public Library
Sussex County
October 17, 2007
9:30am**

Welcome & Introductions

Paul Morrill, Council Chairman, called the meeting to order at 9:45 a.m. Paul asked everyone to introduce themselves and identify their agency's representation.

June 20, 2007 Minutes

Paul Morrill asked for a motion to accept the minutes of the previous meeting. Jamie Brown moved and Diane Wilson seconded to approve minutes as written, motion passed.

Reports

Education & Outreach – Diane Wilson, Council Member

Diane Wilson gave a summary of the Committee projects:

- Delaware State Fair: The fair on July 26 was a success. The new activity was appreciated by many more children because it was a hands-on activity. Brochures and booklets were available. Thanks to Susan and Bob who helped set up and all Council members and others that volunteered to staff the booth. Shift times were shared by all volunteers.
- Coast Day: Council experienced a decline in volunteers this year, resulting in no participation at the Coast Day events.
- Web Page: Project will proceed after a web page designer is hired by the Division of Parks & Recreation.
- Isaac Branch Trail – Kent County held ribbon-cutting event recently.
- Delaware Greenways, Inc. is moving to their new office at the Bird Husband House on October 25. [Bird Husband House is located in Alapocas Run State Park.] Brad Killian gave a summary explaining that an Open House event will take place in conjunction with their Annual Meeting.

Bike Council – Lisa Lasher

Lisa Lasher and Anthony Aglio addressed business and news from the Bike Council.

- Junction at Breakwater Trail:
 - This site has become popular for bicyclists and walkers.
 - Students use the trail to get to work during the summer.
 - The J&B Trail is used as an alternative to Rte 1.
 - Bike Council supports improvements from Nassau to Cape Henlopen.
- Route 1 Bike Lane: Dewey to Bethany will have rumble strips installed. Reduced depth of grooves and extending space between strips at edge of road will make crossing rumble strips easier on bikes. [Bike tires could get caught in deeper grooves.]

- **Bike Maps:** New bike maps will be available in 2008 with all major trails added. Susan asked that Anthony consult with her office to get the most recent state and local park boundaries. She offered a review for accuracy.

Showfield development: Nina Cannata presented a map of the proposed Showfield development and said annexation was not yet completed. The developer has been through the State PLUS process, received the TIS and is now in negotiations with DelDOT. Nothing is known of the TIS result. Gail Van Gilder suggested, when designing the trails, to make every effort to get the trails as off-road as possible. There will be major road changes when the development begins and will impact where the trail goes. The safest for the public is to get the trails as far off the road as possible.

Grant Review:

Lisa Lasher & Bob Ehemann presented the 2007 Greenway & Trail Grant Recommendations selected by the Grant Review Committee. [See attached.]

Paul Morrill asked both committee and staff what their thoughts were in terms of the contingency reserve and its size, whether big or small, what the reason was for keeping it this size. Bob Ehemann said \$100,000 level is enough reserve for a contingency. Paul pointed out that even if funds are available; there is no obligation for Council to fund projects that do not qualify. Paul said judgment should be made on the merit of each project.

Chazz Salkin agreed with Bob Ehemann to keep \$100,000 contingency reserve for administrative purposes. This is particularly helpful during the year when requests come in that do not necessarily need to go through Council for small grants or small amendments to existing grants. It is good to have a cushion for administrative functioning, efficiencies, and for land acquisition projects that need swift movement, he stated. Mr. Salkin added that the agency's first priority is to protect the greenway corridors, to acquire land. Gail agreed with Chazz to keep the contingency a little higher than \$100,000 for administration, projects that may arise, and acquisition of greenway properties.

After discussions Paul asked for a motion to accept the projects as presented. Jamie Brown made the motion that Council accept the recommendations put forth by Grant Review Committee with the following additions: \$25,000 for the City of Milford and \$42,000 for what had been thought to be an ineligible projects. Diane Wilson seconded. Charlie Emerson and Paul Morrill went on record as abstaining from voting. Motion passed.

Paul thanked the Grant Review Committee, Lisa Lasher, Jamie Brown, Gail VanGilder, Anthony Aglio and Bob Ehemann, for a job well done and said that the recommendations were sound. He said he would however, like to see an informal estimate for a number of ongoing good-sized projects and information on where they were headed.

Updates

C&D Canal Trail – Mark Eberle, US Army Corps of Engineers, Philadelphia

Paul Morrill introduced Mark Eberle, Coordinator of the C&D Canal Trail Project. Mark Eberle gave a PowerPoint presentation on the status of C&D Canal. He said this project began in 2005 with the support of Congressman Mike Castle. A year was spent developing the Chesapeake and Delaware Canal Trail Concept Plan and outlining the vision of building a multi-use trail along government property connecting DE to MD. The project team consists of Congressman Mike Castle; Army Corps of Engineers; Congressman Wayne Gilchrest (MD); Delaware Department of

Natural Resources and Environmental Control (Fish & Wildlife and Parks & Recreation); MD Department of Natural Resources; DE Department of Transportation; New Castle County; Cecil County; Delaware City and St. Georges, DE; and Chesapeake City; and Delaware Greenways, Inc.

The JMT consulting firm is contracted for trail design and engineering. Mark said he would be coordinating with the states involved regarding the environmental aspect of the project. The immediate goal is to complete Phase 1 which is approximately 15 miles along the north side of the Canal from Delaware City to Chesapeake City. A multi-use path is being designed – the trail is 15 feet wide and divided into 10 feet asphalt and 5 feet stone/fines.

The new trail development will complement the existing activities already on Canal lands - fishing, dog training, hunting, and horseback riding – and compliment the Canal's wetlands, wildlife, and natural infrastructure. Mark said preserving the over 7,000 acres of federal property is important as it is the largest contiguous open space in New Castle County. The Corps of Engineers will be responsible for the operation and maintenance and he envisions partnering with DNREC, especially for enforcement. [Division of Fish & Wildlife currently has an enforcement function for Canal lands it leases from the Corps.] The Trail will be gated.

Other key developments include the following:

- Legislation - Water Resources Development Act of 2007 passed in Congress – important for the trail because it expands the Corps entitlement mission at the C&D Canal to encompass a recreation function. Prior to passage, only navigation authority was permitted at the C&D. The bill is awaiting the President's signature.
- Cong. Castle says there is \$700,000 of new federal funds requested from trail construction in the FY2008 budget.
- JMT on schedule to have 30% of the designs complete by December 2007.
- Next August 2008, the Corps hopes to have 100% completed.

Route 9 Event – Paul Morrill, Council Chairman

No update on the status of funding regarding the corridor management plan grant for Route 9. Kent County Tourism & Convention Bureau is preparing to post the mile-upon-mile scenic route highlights on the internet.

Announcements

The next meeting will be held on Wednesday, February 20, 2008 at Public Archives in Dover.

Adjourn:

Paul Morrill asked for a motion to adjourn. Jamie Brown made a motion and Chazz Salkin seconded. Meeting adjourned at 12:05 p.m.

Post Meeting:

- Light Lunch
- Canary Creek and Lewes Canalfront park site visits

Meeting Attendance:

Appointed Members

Malcolm Baird
Charles Emerson
Lisa Lasher
Paul Morrill
Jamie Brown
Gail VanGilder
Diane Wilson

Agency Members

Charles A. Salkin, Director, DNREC, Division of Parks & Recreation
Anthony Aglio, Planning, DelDOT

Guests

Nina D. Cannata, Lewes Greenway Committee
Mark Eberle, US Army Corp of Engineers
Brad Killian, Delaware Greenways, Inc.
Jennifer Baldwin, Planning, DelDOT

Division of Parks and Recreation Staff

Susan Moerschel, Manager, Park Resource Office
Bob Ehemann, Coordinator, Grants & Community Assistance
Rose Ryödi, Administrative Specialist